

**~~500 Word Argument OPPOSED to Proposition 4~~**

PROPOSITION 4 PUTS TEENS AT RISK.

The AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

The CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION,

The CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS,

The AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS, District IX

The CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION,

And parents throughout California urge you to VOTE NO on 4.

MANDATORY NOTIFICATION LAWS MAY SOUND GOOD, BUT, IN THE  
REAL WORLD THEY PUT TEENAGERS IN REAL DANGER.

A SCARED, PREGNANT TEEN who can't go to her parents can feel trapped  
and desperate. Instead of seeking the counseling and safe medical care she  
needs, she MAY CHOOSE AN UNSAFE, BACK ALLEY, ILLEGAL ABORTION, GO  
ACROSS THE BORDER OR EVEN CONTEMPLATE SUICIDE.

Proposition 4 is DANGEROUS.

PARENTS RIGHTFULLY WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR TEENAGERS'  
LIVES. We want our daughters to come to us if they become pregnant. BUT, IN

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 4

THE REAL WORLD, NOT ALL TEENS LIVE IN HOMES WHERE COMMUNICATION IS POSSIBLE and, even in the best homes, many teens aren't able to talk about something as sensitive as pregnancy.

IF OUR DAUGHTERS COULDN'T COME TO US, for whatever reason, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS KEEPING THEM SAFE. New laws cannot force our teens to talk to us, but they may force them into the back alleys ... or worse.

PROPOSITION 4 DOESN'T PROTECT TEENS IN DANGEROUS HOMES. A scared pregnant teen is not going to go to her doctor, claim mistreatment and then stand by as law enforcement comes to the door – the same door she has to return to. She may not seek care at all.

Prop 4 is not about "family involvement." Family notification is no more than a state-scripted form letter sent to another relative who may not live in the same town. Prop 4 contains NO REQUIREMENT FOR COUNSELING and no requirement that the other adult help her when she is in crisis. PROP 4 PUTS OUR MOST VULNERABLE TEENAGERS IN HARMS WAY...

OR FORCES TEENS TO GO TO COURT.

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Think about it: she's pregnant, she can't go to her parents, and she's already desperate. She isn't going to go to court to reveal the most intimate details of her life to an unfamiliar judge in an impersonal courthouse. SHE DOESN'T NEED A JUDGE; SHE NEEDS A CARING COUNSELOR AND SAFE, QUALITY MEDICAL CARE, WITHOUT DELAY.

MANDATORY NOTIFICATION LAWS MAKE SCARED, PREGNANT TEENS WHO CAN'T GO TO THEIR PARENTS DO DANGEROUS THINGS.

And *if* in desperation, teenagers turn to illegal, self-induced or back-alley abortions, THEY WILL SUFFER SERIOUS INJURIES AND SOME WILL DIE.

REAL FAMILY COMMUNICATION MUST START LONG BEFORE A TEEN FACES AN UNPLANNED PREGNANCY. The best way to protect our daughters is to begin talking with them about responsible, appropriate sexual behavior – including abstinence -- from the time they are young and fostering an atmosphere assuring they can come to us.

Because NO LAW CAN MANDATE FAMILY COMMUNICATION and while mandatory laws like these may sound good, IN THE REAL WORLD THEY JUST PUT TEENAGERS IN REAL DANGER.

TO PROTECT TEENS, please vote No on 4.

**SUBJECT TO COURT  
ORDERED CHANGES**

Signed:

~~/s/~~ Dr. Myles B. Abbott, Chair  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California District

~~/s/~~ Donna Gerber  
California Nurses Association

~~/s/~~ Nancy Schubb, President  
California Association of School Counselors